All India Cultural/Folklore festivals

*326. SHRI RANGANATH MISRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to organize All India Cultural/Folklore Festivals once or twice a year at different locations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether some kind of national award and recognition with cash prizes could be extended at such festivals to honour new talented artists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Culture and its autonomous organizations organise All India Cultural/Folklore festivals on a regular basis. The Republic Day folk Dance festival at Delhi, organised by Zonal Cultural Centres, is an annual feature. The National Theatre festival and Children's Theatre festival, organised by National School of Drama, are also annual features. Sangeet Natak Akademi organises national festivals of music, dance and theatre in different parts of the country on a regular basis. A festival of dance, music and theatre featuring the Awardees of each year follows the Annual Award ceremony of Sangeet Natak Akademi.

Zonal Cultural Centres organise inter zonal festivals under the National Cultural Exchange Programme.

(c) The proposal will be given due consideration.

Privatisation of Pawan Hans

*327. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. (PHHL) has signed MoU with C.H.C. Helicopters International recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) in what manner it will help PHHL's business opportunities;

(d) whether Government are considering the privatisation of PHHL; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with M/s. CHC Helicopters International Inc. (CHII) of Canada, on 07.06.2002. The MoU, *inter-alia*, envisages CHII assistance to PHHL in upgrading its maintenance facilities and further improving its operational and management systems through induction of state-of-the-art technology. It would also help in providing business opportunities to PHHL through possible operation of its helicopters abroad, and increasing revenue due to the upgraded maintenance facilities.

(d) and (e) The Government has deferred a decision on disinvestment of Government equity in PHHL for the time being.

Joint venture by GAIL in CNG retailing

*328. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) has decided to form a joint venture with a civic body in Gujarat for retail distribution of Compressed Natural Gas;

(b) if so, the salient features of this joint venture agreement;

(c) whether GAIL plans to expand its distribution network by entering into joint ventures in other parts of the country where they have supply terminals/pipelines; and

(d) if so, the locations identified for future joint ventures for CNG retailing?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS(SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) for the formation of a joint venture company